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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

January 10, 2022

Representative Curtis Johnson, Chair
House Select Committee on Redistricting
Tennessee General Assembly
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Suite 612 Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Chairman Johnson,

As the House Select Committee on Redistricting considers new Congressional maps for the state of Tennessee, I write to you to ask that the Committee center their redistricting decisions on the shared needs and values of constituents within each community, particularly those of Memphis and the current 9th Congressional District.

I have long advocated both as a State Senator and in the House of Representatives for curbing partisan gerrymandering and restoring public confidence in government through redistricting by emphasizing geographical contiguity, compactness, preservation of communities of interest, and consistency with other political lines rather than mere political affiliation. Ten years ago, I advocated for the city of Memphis to remain in the 9th Congressional District. Although a portion of Memphis was drawn into the 8th District at that time, it is my hope that the city would suffer from no more splintering in this redistricting cycle.

Being a lifelong Memphian and representing the 9th Congressional District since 2007, I believe that my community and constituents would be best served by remaining in a geographically contiguous, compact district that respects the community of interest and political boundaries of the City of Memphis. I have heard this desire expressed directly from my constituents often and consistently. As a major city, Memphis is a highly interconnected community that is best served when its citizens are treated and function as such.

As you consider the new Congressional District maps, I urge you all to include the entirety of the City of Memphis in one congressional district, or at least allow Memphians already in the 9th District to remain there. I believe Memphians will be best served by a representative who represents the whole community and can zealously pursue its unique interests.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIR – CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND
CIVIL LIBERTIES
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE
INTERNET
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AVIATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE
AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEES:

INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

From my experience serving in the State Senate, I understand the competing needs and interests in the redistricting process. I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

As always, I remain,

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress